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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,727	01/31/2001	Martha L. Lyons	10007376-1	6080

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EXAMINER	
CORRIELUS, JEAN M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	13

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/774,727	LYONS, MARTHA L.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jean M Corrielus	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Appeal brief filed on March 28, 2004, in which claims 1-20 are pending for further examination.

Drawings

2. Applicants are required to furnish the formal drawings in response this office action. No new matter may be introduced in the required drawing. Failure to timely submit a drawing will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the appeal brief filed March 28, 2004 have been fully considered. Therefore, the finality of the rejection mailed on July 24, 2003 has been withdrawn in view of a new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang US Patent application Publication no. US/2002/0046041 in view of Coueignoux US Patent no. 6,092,197 .

As to claim 1, Lang discloses an automated system for providing reputation and trust information ([0002]). In particular, Lang discloses the claimed limitation "a database for storing said reputation information" as a database (36) that holds reputation information in which a client seeks to access from the reputation service (see fig.2); "security measures for verifying identities of at least one of said user and a plurality of community organizations" in order to gain access to services provided by the server 46 and server 32, users 44 have to connect to the network 42 (fig.2); wherein in fig.7, requester is required to provide the user ID and password; and "a communication system for receiving said reputation information and transmitting said reputation information to said plurality of community organizations" communication 42 receives a response in response to a request. However Lang does not explicitly disclose the use of transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received by said user.

On the other hand, Coueignoux discloses a system for exploiting information such as confidential information from a user while securing the information from unauthorized publication. In particular, Coueignoux discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received by said user" as a means for transmitting the confidential information only in response to authorization by the user (col.6, lines 46-54, lines 59-63).

Schuba (patent application publication no. US 2002/003261 A1) is not part of the rejection can be used, discloses a system for authorization of transaction, wherein user equipment receives an authorization request with an identifier of a transaction and replies to the request with an authorization response. In particular, Schuba (patent application publication no. US 2002/003261 A1) discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received by said user" as a means for transmitting the message information in response to authorization by the user ([0021]) or an authorization from the user ([0052]). Lambert, patent no. 6,572,014, is also not part of the rejection and can be used, discloses a system for providing a computer for detecting a user action and for converting the user input into a data first stream. In particular, Lambert, patent no. 6,572,014, also discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received by said user" as a means for transmitting information data in a response or an authorization by the user (col.15, lines 2-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein the automated reputation service provided therein (see Lang's fig.2, item 44) would incorporate the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received by said user" in the same conventional manner as disclosed by Coueignoux (col.6, lines 46-54, lines 59-63). One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize such a combination in order to enhance security, thereby ensuring that the response is authorized or signed by the user.

As to claim 2, Lang discloses the claimed "information related to activities of said user"([0031]-[0035]; "information related to qualification of said user" ([0031]-[0035]); and "information related to reliability of said user" ([0031]-[0035]).

As to claim 3, Lang discloses the claimed "a certification engine for authenticity of said transmitted reputation information"([0042]-[0043]).

As to claim 4, Lang discloses the claimed limitations "a reputation information classifier for grouping pieces of said reputation information into predetermined categories related to activities conducted with said plurality of communication organizations"([0031]; [0032]; [0034] and [0038]-[0039]).

As to claim 5, Lang discloses the claimed limitation "wherein said plurality of community organizations received said reputation information in categories related to said activities conducted on said plurality of community organizations"([0031]-[0035]; and [0039]).

As to claim 6, Lang discloses the claimed "wherein said user authorization is provided by said user to said plurality of community organization for receiving said reputation information from said reputation authority"([0035]; [0042]; [0043]).

As to claim 7, Lang discloses the claimed "wherein said user authorizes said reputation authority to transmit said reputation to said plurality of community organizations"([0041]-[0043]).

As to claim 8, Lang discloses the claimed "wherein at least one of said user and said plurality of community organizations subscribes to said reputation authority in order to participate in said electronically storing reputation information"([0031]-[0035]; [0044]-[0045] and [0050]-[0052]).

As to claim 9, Lang discloses the claimed "verifying an identity of one of an associated user and an accessing third party responsive to a request to access said centralized repository" as a means determining whether the requester is authorized to access the requested information, wherein if the reputation information is particularly sensitive, only selected parties may be able to access this information, and wherein the authorization may require that the requesting that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0041]-[0043]; fig.2; and fig.7); "receiving said identity attributes from at least one of said verified associated user and said verified accessing third party"([0043]; fig.2; and fig.7); "storing said identity attribute in a database indexed according to said verified associated user" ([[0025]-0030]; fig.2; and fig.7) and "delivering at least one set of said identity attributes to said verified third party" as a means for providing selected parties to be able to access the reputation information, and where the authorization may require that the requester provide the user ID and

password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0025]-0030]; [0042]-[0043]; fig.2; and fig.7). Applicant should duly note that Lang discloses a name field to identify the name of the party as well as an identification that uniquely identifies the party amongst the parties for which reputation data is held by the reputation service, the third party is, therefore, incorporated. However Lang does not explicitly disclose the use of transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user.

On the other hand, Coueignoux discloses a system for exploiting information such as confidential information from a user while securing the information from unauthorized publication. In particular, Coueignoux discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user" as a means for transmitting the confidential information only in response to authorization by the user (col.6, lines 46-54, lines 59-63).

Schuba (patent application publication no. US 2002/003261 A1) is not part of the rejection can be used, discloses a system for authorization of transaction, wherein user equipment receives an authorization request with an identifier of a transaction and replies to the request with an authorization response. In particular, Schuba (patent application publication no. US 2002/003261 A1) discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user" as a means for transmitting the message information in response to authorization by the user ([0021]) or an authorization from the user ([0052]).

Lambert, patent no. 6,572,014, is also not part of the rejection and can be used, discloses a system for providing a computer for detecting a user action and for converting the user input into a data first stream. In particular, Lambert, patent no. 6,572,014, also discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user" as a means for transmitting information data in a response or an authorization by the user (col.15, lines 2-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein the automated reputation service provided therein (see Lang's fig.2, item 44) would incorporate the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to an authorization received from said verified associated user" in the same conventional manner as disclosed by Coueignoux (col.6, lines 46-54, lines 59-63). One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize such a combination in order to enhance security, thereby ensuring that the response is authorized or signed by the user.

As to claim 10, Lang discloses the claimed "categorizing said identity attribute into sets related to activities of said accessing third party"[0037]-[0039].

As to claim 11, Lang discloses the claimed "wherein said at least one set comprises said sets related to activities of said accessing third party"[0032]-[0039].

As to claim 12, Lang discloses the claimed "processing a request for said at least one set of identity attributes from said accessing third party, wherein said associated user provides said authorization to said accessing third party"[0042]-[0043].

As to claim 13, Lang discloses the claimed "updating said stored identity attributes from at least one of said associated user and said accessing third party" (fig.2) and "certifying said at least one set of said identity attributes"([0047]; fig.2 and fig.10).

As to claim 14, Lang discloses the claimed "registering at least at least one of said associated user and said accessing third party with said centralized repository of identity attributes for receiving prior to said verifying step"([0042], fig.2).

As to claim 15, Lang discloses the claimed "means for verifying an identity of one of a plurality of users and a plurality of participating user community responsive to a request to access said clearinghouse"([0041]-[0042], fig.2); "means for storing reliability data from one of said verified plurality of users and said verified plurality of participating user community"([0029]-[0035];[0043]; fig.2); "means for associating said stored reliability data with an associated

user"([0030]; [0031]; [0043] and fig.2); and "means releasing selected reliability data to one of said verified plurality of participating user community" as a means for providing selected parties to be able to access the reputation information, and where the authorization may require that the requester provide the user ID and password in some instance, in order to ensure the information reaches the appropriate party and is only modifiable by the appropriate requesting party ([0007], [0025]-0030]; [0042]-[0043]; fig.2). Applicant should duly note that Lang discloses a name field to identify the name of the party as well as an identification that uniquely identifies the party amongst the parties for which reputation data is held by the reputation service, the third party is, therefore, incorporated. However Lang does not explicitly disclose the use of transmitting a reputation information in responsive to consent giving by said associated user.

On the other hand, Coueignoux discloses a system for exploiting information such as confidential information from a user while securing the information from unauthorized publication. In particular, Coueignoux discloses the use of "responsive to consent giving by said associated user" as a means for transmitting the confidential information only in response to authorization by the user (col.6, lines 46-54, lines 59-63).

Schuba (patent application publication no. US 2002/003261 A1) is not part of the rejection can be used, discloses a system for authorization of transaction, wherein user equipment receives an authorization request with an identifier of a transaction and replies to the request with an authorization response. In particular, Schuba (patent application publication no. US 2002/003261 A1) discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to consent giving by said associated user" as a means for transmitting the message information in response to authorization by the user ([0021]) or an authorization from the user ([0052]). Lambert, patent no.

6,572,014, is also not part of the rejection and can be used, discloses a system for providing a computer for detecting a user action and for converting the user input into a data first stream. In particular, Lambert, patent no. 6,572,014, also discloses the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to consent giving by said associated user" as a means for transmitting information data in a response or an authorization by the user (col.15, lines 2-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references, wherein the automated reputation service provided therein (see Lang's fig.2, item 44) would incorporate the use of "transmitting a reputation information in responsive to consent giving by said associated user" in the same conventional manner as disclosed by Coueignoux (col.6, lines 46-54, lines 59-63). One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize such a combination in order to enhance security, thereby ensuring that the response is authorized or signed by the user.

As to claim 16, Lang discloses the claimed "means for updating said stored reliability data from at least one of said plurality of users and said plurality of participating user communities" ([0023], [0047]; fig.2).

As to claim 17, Lang discloses the claimed "means for classifying said reliability data into groups related to activities of said plurality of participating user communities"([0031]-[0039]; fig.2).

As to claim 18, Lang discloses the claimed "wherein said selected reliability data comprises said groups related to activities of said plurality of participating user communities"([0031]-[0039]; fig.2).

As to claim 19, Lang discloses the claimed "means for processing request for said selected reliability data from said plurality of participating user communities, wherein said verified one of said plurality of users provides said consent to said plurality of participating user communities"([0042]-[0044]; fig.2).

As to claim 20, Lang discloses the claimed "means for processing a request to deliver said selected reliability data from said verified one of said plurality of users, wherein said verified one of said plurality of users provides said consent to said reputation management clearinghouse" "([0043]-[0046]; fig.2).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean M. Corrielus whose telephone number is (703) 306-3035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (12:00pm - 7:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jean M. Corrielus

Patent Examner

June 23, 2004